

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Previously Presented) A wound dressing comprising:

an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the absorbent core including a pattern of holes defined along the proximal surface thereof; and

a discrete skin adherent, elastomeric gel layer disposed along the proximal surface of the absorbent core, said elastomeric gel layer having a plurality of through extending apertures provided in a pattern irrespective of the pattern of holes of the absorbent core.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 21, wherein the apertures of the elastomeric gel layer have a generally uniform shape.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 21, wherein the apertures of the elastomeric gel layer are substantially equally spaced from one another.

Claims 24 - 28 (Canceled)

Claim 29 (Previously Presented) A wound dressing comprising:

an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the absorbent core including a pattern of holes defined along the proximal surface thereof; and

a discrete skin adherent, elastomeric gel layer disposed along the proximal surface of the absorbent core and at least partially filling a plurality of the holes of the absorbent core, said elastomeric gel layer having a plurality of through extending apertures provided in a pattern irrespective of the pattern of holes of the absorbent core.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 29, wherein the elastomeric gel layer consists of a cross-linked silicone.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented) A wound dressing comprising:

an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the absorbent core including a pattern of holes defined along the proximal surface thereof; and

a facing layer consisting a discrete skin adherent, elastomeric gel directly disposed along the proximal surface of the absorbent core, said elastomeric gel layer having a plurality of through extending apertures provided in a pattern irrespective of the pattern of holes of the absorbent core.